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Letter dated 18 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention a statement on the health of the Serb journalist Miroslav Filipovic issued on 8 September 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and is annex circulated as a General Assembly document, under agenda item 114 (b).

(Signed) Jean-David **Levitte**
Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 18 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the health of the Serb journalist, Miroslav Filipovic, issued on 8 September 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union wishes to express its grave concern regarding the fate of Miroslav Filipovic, the Serb journalist sentenced to seven years' imprisonment by a military court on 26 July 2000. At the time, the European Union strongly condemned his imprisonment, his trial and the conditions in which it was held as well as the sentence handed down. Mr. Filipovic's state of health is now giving rise to great concern in the European Union. According to our information, Mr. Filipovic, who suffers from serious heart trouble, is not receiving appropriate care. The European Union calls upon the Yugoslav authorities to take the necessary measures to ensure that the journalist receives the care his condition requires until such time as he has completely recovered. The European Union recalls its strong condemnation of the conditions in which the trial was held and of the verdict, and calls for Mr. Filipovic's release. It would point out that freedom of expression, the right and the duty to impart information freely and the right to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal are basic human rights laid down in a great many international texts, of which the foremost is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.